

To the Editor:

11/23/ 2007

I cannot imagine what life would be like in Barrington if the number of trains running through the village increased three-fold. The number of trains that run through the village currently are tolerable, but an increase in train traffic (to the extent that Canadian National is proposing as part of its \$300 million acquisition of the EJ&J Railroad) would bring life as we know it to a screeching halt – literally.

I applaud the village leaders for having the insight to join forces and approach this barreling train as a coalition whose primary concern is to work together for the good of the Greater Barrington Area. Last week, when residents received a joint letter from town leaders informing us about the Canadian National purchase, I breathed a sigh of relief to learn the village presidents and township supervisors had “committed resources to the creation of a coalition to fight this acquisition’s staggering adverse impact on our communities.”

I have since learned the Barrington Communities Against CN Rail Congestion has submitted a formal response to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board asking the agency for an Environmental Impact Study to consider all of the environmental, transportation and safety consequences the additional train traffic would have on our community and its residents.

If the train has ever stopped you, then you know everything backs up on Rt. 59 going north and south, Lake Cook Road going east and west, and all side streets. I can’t imagine how the village would function if trains were to cut the village in half 20 times a day. This is not just an “in my backyard issue.” It is an issue that also has significant economic ramifications for the Greater Barrington Area, and I encourage everyone to get involved!

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